

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WE NEED TO FIX THE TAX CODE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, perhaps the most dreaded day of the year for taxpayers will soon be upon us, April 15. We're all at home with paper and pen, with stacks of receipts and books, strewn upon our kitchen table, and as tax day approaches, I come before the House of Representatives to share Kansans' many frustrations and to call upon Congress to fix the Tax Code.

Our country desperately needs a better tax system. The United States Tax Code is complex, confusing, and terribly burdensome to taxpayers, and it impedes our Nation's economic growth. The IRS has estimated that individual taxpayers and businesses spend 7.6 billion hours each year filling out their taxes. To put that number in perspective, that's 3.8 million employees working full time for the entire year.

It's obvious, certainly to anyone filling out their tax return this year, that an overhaul of the Federal Tax Code is required. The Fair Tax Act, which I support, H.R. 25, is a direction we should go and contains many meritorious ideas which would start the process. The fair tax would repeal income, payroll, and a multitude of other taxes. And those taxes would be replaced by a national sales or consumption tax on retail purchases.

But no matter what system we agree upon, what we model our tax reform around, the fact remains: America deserves an easier, commonsense, and less convoluted tax system than we currently have in place. We need a tax system that promotes personal freedom. Decisions should be made based upon what's good for us individually, what's good for our families, and what's good for our businesses. It shouldn't be all about what's good for the tax man.

But instead of tax simplification and tax relief, Americans this year will be facing the same broken system and a budget proposal that increases their taxes to pay for more spending. Many are angry at the reckless spending of this Congress, so much so that a national grassroots movement of tea par-

ties has opened up this spring. On April 15, over 300 tax day tea parties are planned across the country, many of them in Kansas.

Kansans are tired of footing the bill for Wall Street bailouts and rewarding bad behavior in the housing market. They're frustrated with trillion dollar stimulus efforts that fund projects and programs that simply won't stimulate the economy. They're upset with massive government spending that increases our national debt at a time when most American families are forced to tighten their belts and make tough choices.

Americans are struggling, and we need to get the country moving, but increasing taxes to recklessly throw dollars at the problem is not the solution. I am one of only a few of the 435 Members of this House to vote against every stimulus and bailout plan. I'd like to say that there were more of us. Hopefully, this tax day will serve as a reminder for Congress and the administration to put the taxpayer first—spend a lot less and create a tax system that is fair and efficient and that promotes individual freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. REICHERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROGERS of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING MR. AND MRS. JAMES AILSHIE AND THE "J4"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. James Ailshie, who are celebrating their 79th year of marriage. James Ailshie was born in 1912, and his lovely wife, Dussie, in 1914. The two are proud parents of six wonderful children, all of whom are residents of East Tennessee.

When asked how they have maintained such an incredible marriage, the couple always responds with, "The secret of a long life together is a four letter word, love." In my opinion, the Ailshie marriage is a living testimony of what love truly is. Let theirs serve as an example to all of us, that love and dedication can truly last a lifetime.

However, their marriage is more than simply an affirmation of love. Across the years they have witnessed times of joy and times of hardship, yet their commitment has endured. The qualities of character that have enabled them to sustain their union and build their family are the same qualities that are fundamental to the strength of our Nation. May we continue to be blessed with Americans who cherish the values of our traditions.

Married in 1930, the Ailshies have shared many yesterdays together. It has been said that, "An anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday, and the hopes of tomorrow." It is my hope that they will go on and see many, many more tomorrows together.

Madam Speaker, I rise also today to congratulate Jessi, Jedediah, Josiah, and Josephine Smith, better known as "J4," who were declared the winner of the CBS Early Show's Singing Family Face Off this week. The competition began months ago when roughly 700 videos of family bands performing were submitted by Early Show viewers.

The "J4" siblings performed the Mary Mary's song "Shackles," on the Early Show, which advanced them to the finals. CBS said they were chosen as the winner based on votes through the network's Web site.

"J4" is made up of four siblings, aged 7 to 15, all with names beginning with the letter "J" from the Smith family in Bluff City, Tennessee. The oldest two have played for a couple of years for services at the church across the street from their home where their dad, Mark, is pastor.

The Smith kids are the children of Mark and Lori Smith. They're homeschooled and very involved in music, including piano and violin.

Congratulations again to "J4." They make East Tennessee proud.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, earlier today I recounted the calamity that we find ourselves in with the budget and the spending of money here in the United States. Frankly, of course, the budgets over the past 8 years and the enormous expenditure of funds created a huge and growing deficit.

I indicated earlier that we spent \$667 billion for the Iraq war, high unemployment still ongoing, stories that you hear from constituents about mortgage foreclosures, inability to have their loans re-modified, and so you can see the importance of the debate today.

And I'm very proud that, of the number of budgets that I had the opportunity to participate in and to argue for and to suggest the direction that they should take, they all focused on restoring the humanity and dignity of the American people.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus budget focused on reducing the deficit by 58 percent in fiscal year 2012. In addition, it targeted waste, fraud, and abuse. It repealed the Bush tax cuts for the top 1 percent of taxpayers. Let me emphasize that, the top 1 percent of taxpayers. That means that 99 percent of the American people would not get a tax increase of any kind. In fact, alongside of that principle is the principle of the President's budget, the budget we passed finally that guaranteed middle-class Americans a tax cut.

The budget included in the Progressive budget health care for all, affordable, accessible health care so that there would be no tragedies such as

young people, children needing transplants or transfusions, and they can't get it because their insurer denies it.

We add an additional \$300 billion as an additional part of the economic stimulus package so that there can be added assistance for unemployment insurance, food stamps, infrastructure spending, housing assistance, job creation.

I come from the gulf region, where we are still suffering both from Hurricane Katrina and Rita and now Hurricane Ike. My neighbor to the south, the city of Galveston, the mayor and city manager and many of her constituents are still facing the calamity of trying to build housing, trying to restore the University of Texas medical branch, and we, as a Texas delegation, worked with the district Member to try to ensure that restoration.

The budgets that were put here today respect the fact that there will be disasters in America, calamities such as fires and floods and, of course, hurricanes, storms, volcanos, that are spilling out such as in the State of Washington, that create havoc if those issues occur. And so this is a time when we opted to opt on the side of the people of America.

The Congressional Black Caucus budget puts in place \$18 billion more in health care, \$17 billion more on education and job training. What happens to a person who is unemployed? They look for jobs or they look to steer themselves into another career. And what do you need to do that? You need job training, whether it's in the community college system like the Houston Community College, whether or not it is going into nursing school, going to become a truck driver, or going into IT, you need job training.

Eight billion dollars on infrastructure so that the roads and the potholes and the bridges and the tunnels can be fixed, but more importantly, people can be put to work as we make a new America; \$5.5 billion on justice programs; and \$4.5 billion on veterans benefits and services. And of all of these budgets, Madam Speaker, the Congressional Progressive Caucus and CBC and the President's budget all reinforce our commitment to veterans and our returning soldiers who put themselves and their families on the front lines.

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Families and our soldiers are likewise on the front lines. So I'm very proud to stand here today to say that we did the right thing in voting on this budget. We did the right thing in focusing on health care reform—trying to fix the broken system of some 44 million to 47 million Americans who are still uninsured.

In that effort, we managed to save some \$316 billion over 10 years; several provisions to improve quality and efficiency in health care. Then, as well, we made a significant down payment on health care reform by putting these savings, along with \$317.8 billion from a

tax policy change on upper-income taxpayers, into a \$634 billion health reform reserve.

We're holding a spot, Madam Speaker, so we can fix this for the American people. I mentioned education and energy. That is going to bring about green jobs.

Madam Speaker, we did the right thing for the American people and I'm proud to be part of this Congress and go home to speak with my constituents on how we have helped to change their lives.

THE DIRECTION OF OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOOZMAN. As part of my commitment to the people of Arkansas' Third District, I hold mobile offices in all 12 counties so that I can hear their concerns and help them when I can. As part of that, I relay their troubles here.

For many of the people I saw in Fayetteville on Friday, their attendance at the mobile office was a first. Like so many other people that I hear from through phone calls, e-mails, they are scared with the direction of our country.

They've seen Democrats pass a massive stimulus bill that was full of pet projects but short on job creation, job protection, and protections for pension plans. They've seen President Obama tout an omnibus bill that increases government spending, but what they're looking for is how Washington is tightening its belt, just like so many of them are.

Last week, President Obama said, "It's with a budget that leads to broad economic growth by moving from an era of borrow and spend to one where we save and invest." Unfortunately, President Obama isn't living up to those words with his budget proposal that spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much.

My constituents are upset—and they have every reason to be. "No more Federal deficit spending, please. I beg you to stop the financial bleeding." This is from Leslie in Harrison. She e-mailed me last week, "We cannot afford to continue spending for programs we don't need. What we need are legislators with the veracity and tenacity to stand up and cut the spending programs and pay off the national debt."

Leslie, I hear you. I too have serious doubts. One reason is the proposed Federal budget would enact the largest tax increase in the history of the United States.

I also hear Rebecca from Wesley, who wrote, "I'm 63 years old and have worked very hard. I pay my bills and do not want to pay the bills of others. I'm so furious with what is going on in Washington. No to all tax increases, no to any laws that will increase utility rates, no to government-run health care. I have no confidence that the government can run anything."